



Junior high school is important because your child is laying the foundation in a lot of subjects and forming study habits. Developing certain skills now will make it easier for your child to adjust to the challenges of high school and college later — and will lead to more college options. Here are some things you and your child can do to make the most of this time.

FALL

- ❑ **Help your child set goals for the year.** Working toward specific goals will help your child stay motivated and focused.
- ❑ **Review the school & GEAR UP calendars together.** Note important dates and put them in a shared online calendar or in an easy-to-view place, such as a refrigerator. Check out [GEAR UP's website](#) for upcoming events.
- ❑ **Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork.** Using your [myDSD](#) or [MyWeber](#) account, you can keep up with your child's tests, papers and homework assignments, and celebrate successes and address problems as a team. Get [homework tips](#) for your child and find ways to help them [overcome test anxiety and improve their academic skill set](#).
- ❑ **Talk about extracurricular activities.** Getting involved in GEAR UP, clubs, and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about [the benefits of extracurriculars](#) and find out how to [get involved in GEAR UP](#).
- ❑ **Set up an appointment for you and your child to meet with their school counselor and GEAR UP advisor.** Talk about college and career options, discuss how to earn college credit in high school, and learn about the most-appropriate classes your child should take. Find out who the [GEAR UP advisor at your school](#) is.

WINTER

- ❑ **Discuss ways to take on challenges.** Encourage your child to take the most-challenging courses that he or she can handle. Tackling tough courses can give your child confidence and prepare him or her for higher-level high school classes.
- ❑ **Come up with fun reading ideas.** Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your child's age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

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SPRING

- ❑ **Visit a nearby college together.** If you live near a college, look for upcoming events on campus that are open to the community or see if the college offers classes to local children and families. Just being on a campus may get your child interested in college.
- ❑ **Get the big picture on paying for college.** It's not too early to learn the basics of **financial aid**.
- ❑ **Show your child how to explore career ideas.** He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn how students can use **CareerExplorer.com** to explore careers.
- ❑ **Explore State Scholarships** Scholarships are an important tool for paying for college. It's never too early to start researching scholarships. Utah has **state scholarships** with eligibility requirements that begin as early as junior high.
- ❑ **Learn what you can do to help your child prepare to apply for the Regents' Scholarship.** Recipients of this scholarship earn a degree at double the rate of their peers. To be eligible, students must meet all scholarship requirements beginning in 9th grade.
- ❑ **Help your child make summer plans that include participating in GEAR UP activities.** Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways your child can **stay motivated this summer** and get involved in **community** and **GEAR UP activities**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

GEAR UP is here to assist Undocumented Students with or without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in every way possible, and are committed to their success. You and your student should meet with your **GEAR UP advisor** regularly to find out how to apply for colleges and what scholarships are available to them, and refer to the guidelines and resources below.

- ❑ **Applying for College.** Utah House Bill 144 allows qualifying undocumented students to pay the same tuition as Utah residents do at any Utah college or university. Those who meet the requirements of HB 144 must print and fill out the **Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit** and submit it to the admission office of the Utah college they wish to attend. Affidavits and instructions can be found on each college's website by searching for the term "HB-144 affidavit."
- ❑ **Encourage your child to take college classes in high school.** Students who take and succeed in college classes such as **Concurrent Enrollment (CE)** or **Advanced Placement (AP)** can save time and money by earning college credit before graduating from high school.
- ❑ **Paying for College.** Dreamers can apply for scholarships to help pay for college. To learn more about what scholarships are available for undocumented, DACA, and non-FAFSA eligible students, talk to your GEAR UP advisor and visit the Undocumented Student Resources web pages for **Weber State University** and **EDÚCATE UTAH**
- ❑ **Additional Resources:** **Dreamers Road Map**, **Educate Utah**, **My Undocumented Life**

****Note:** The *online version* of this Family Action Plan allows you to click on the **yellow text** above to access important resources/websites**

Visit weber.edu/stategearup/students.html for more info.